

5th October 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

Annual Spelling Bee Competition

It is that time of year again when we have the Key Stage Three Spelling Bee Competition in our quest to boost Literacy across the Curriculum. Through this competition, we endeavour to encourage our students to learn to spell a number of words that are subject specific. It is our intention to enable the students to extend their vocabulary so the definitions for the words are also listed in the Spelling Bee Booklet.

During the Spelling Bee Competition, students will be tested on a variety of spellings from each subject in the curriculum. The booklet will be made available on the College website for every student to access so they can practise their spelling along with learning new words. The spellings are intended to be challenging.

The year 7 and 8 tutors have been given a list of twenty words that have been randomly selected from different subjects. They will then give this spelling quiz to their tutees and the top three spellers from each tutor group will participate in the Spelling Bee Competition. The knock out round of the competition will take place after half term in order to select the top three spellers in both the G and K side from each year group. Each participant will be given merits and a certificate of participation. The first, second and third place winners in year 7 and 8 will go head - to - head to see who will be crowned the Key Stage Three Spelling Bee Champion. Along with attaining merits, the champions will also be awarded with a trophy.

Although only a few students will take part in the competition, please encourage your child to learn to spell the words and also learn the definitions because they will acquire new words, improve their spellings and ultimately develop and extend their vocabulary. The Spelling Bee Booklet is attached.

Warm regards,



Elaine Brooks,
(Literacy and Spelling Bee Coordinator)



The Chalfonts Community College

Key Stage Three

Spelling Bee Competition 2021



SUCCESS IS AN ATTITUDE!

Literary Terms

Acronym - a word formed from the initial letters in a phrase

Assonance – when words share the same vowel sound but their consonants are different

Autobiographical – describing something that happened in the poet's life

Cacophony - The term in poetry refers to the use of words that combine sharp, harsh, hissing, or unmelodious sounds

Chronological – when events are arranged in the order in which they happened

Colloquialism- an informal word or phrase that sounds like something said in a conversation

Didacticism - a term that refers to a particular philosophy in art and literature that emphasizes the idea that different forms of art and literature ought to convey information and instructions along with pleasure and entertainment

Diminutive: Any affix meaning "small." It can suggest cuteness or an emotional attachment

Ellipsis – when words are missed out

Euphemism – an indirect word or phrase used instead of something upsetting or offensive

Exaggeration – describing something as bigger than it really is

Nemesis - a literary device that refers to a situation of poetic justice where the good characters are rewarded for their virtues and the evil characters are punished for their vices.

Nostalgia - the feeling of homesickness has been derived from a Homeric term, nostos, which means homecoming

Omniscient - is a literary technique of writing narrative in third person in which a narrator knows the feelings and thoughts of every character in the story

Repertoire – the different ways that a person talks in different context make up their repertoire

Tautology- a repetitive use of phrases or words which have similar meanings

Tetralogy - In a general sense, a collection of four narratives that are contiguous and continuous in chronology

Soliloquy - A monologue spoken by an actor at a point in the play when the character believes himself to be alone

Physical Education Terms

Anaerobic - pertaining to or caused by the absence of oxygen

Anorexic- a prolonged eating disorder due to loss of appetite

Cholesterol- a blood fat which the body needs in moderate amounts

Diuretics- drugs that elevate the rate of bodily urine excretion

Erythropoietin- a type of peptide hormone that increases the red blood cell count

Flexibility- the range of movement possible at a joint

Hypertrophy- scientific term for an increase of size of muscle

Joint- a place where two or more bones meet

Mesomorph- a somatotype, individuals with wide shoulders and narrow hips, characterised by muscularity

Obese- a term used to describe people who are very over fat

Rehabilitation- restoring to its normal functioning state
Somatotypes- classification of body type
Stimulants- drugs that have an effect on the central nervous system
Tendons- a tissue that joins muscles to bone

Geography Terms

Algorithm - a set of rules specifying a how to solve a problem
Alluvium – all deposits laid down by a river, especially in times of flood
Asthenosphere – part of the earth's mantle that lies below the tectonic plates
Asthenosphere - the upper layer of the earth's mantle, below the lithosphere, in which there is relatively low resistance to plastic flow and convection is thought to occur
Batholith - a very large body of igneous rock, usually granite, which has been exposed by erosion of the overlying rock
Biosphere - the realm of all living things
Cache (pronounced cash) - This is a buffer of memory in the processor that is used to store copies of items that are most often fetched from the memory so that they can be fetched more quickly
Conurbation – a continuous urban or built-up area
Decomposition – breaking a problems down into smaller parts
Dissipate – means to reduce wave energy
Gentrification – high-income earners move into run-down areas to be closer to their workplace
Halophytic - a plant adaptation in which the plant is able to tolerate living in salty conditions e.g. in mudflats and salt marshes
Indigenous – original people from an area / region
Pseudocode - a description of a computer programming algorithm that uses the structural conventions of a programming language, but is intended for human reading rather than machine reading.
Resolution - the number of dots per unit length. It affects the clarity of the image
Spatial – relating to space
Stratosphere – the layer of air 10-50km above earth's surface
Tsunami – earthquake beneath the sea bed generates huge waves that travel up to 900km/h

Business Terms

Bankruptcy- when an individual is unable to pay his/her debts

Boycott- a method of industrial action (instigated by a trade union) when workers avoid an aspect of their normal duties by refusing to work or perform a particular task

Commission- a type of piece rate payment used to reward staff working in shops or who travel between customers. Payment is based on the number or value of sales achieved

Debenture - A very long term method of borrowing money which requires some kind of security

Decentralisation- the situation when the branches of an organisation are allowed to make their own decisions instead of relying on a head office

Depreciation- a term given to the reduction in the value of fixed assets like machinery due to age, wear and tear or obsolescence as new technology is introduced

Diversification-the practice of moving into a product or market area which is different from the one in which a particular business is already established

Entrepreneur- a person that takes a risk and starts their own business with a degree of uncertainty of its success rate

Equilibrium- the state in which market supply and demand balance each other

Hierarchy - A system in which members of an organisation are ranked according to relative status or authority

Inflation- a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing value of money

Merchandising -the aspect of marketing that tries to pull the consumer to a specific product. Examples are sales, free gifts, competitions and special offers

Mortgage- a source of finance that is used to buy property/land

Privatisation- the process of government transference of a business or industry from the public sector to the private sector

Quota- a restriction on the amount of a product that can be imported into a country over a certain period of time

Segmentation – the splitting up of the market into groups of consumers with similar characteristics

Tariff – a tax or duty to be paid on a particular class of imports or exports

Media Term

Anchorage - fixing of meaning e.g. the copy text anchors (i.e. fixes to one spot) the meaning of an image

Censorship - control over the content of a media text

Connotation - way in which meaning is created

Convergence - the way in which technologies and institutions come together in order to create something new

Demographic - Factual characteristics of a population sample, e.g. age, gender, race, nationality, income, disability, education

Editorial - in a newspaper, Editorial refers to the opinion pieces (sometimes known as 'leading articles') written by senior reporters

Enigma - a question that is not immediately answered and thus draws an audience into a text

Globalisation - process by which different cultures worldwide have come to share the same media texts e.g. movies and pop music

Ideology - this is a complex concept - in its basic form it is a set of ideas or beliefs which are held to be acceptable by the creators of a media text

Intertextuality - the influence that media texts have on each other

Neologism - Newly-coined word or phrase made up to describe a new trend, idea or gadget

Realism - the techniques by which a media text represents ideas and images that are held to have a true relationship with the actual world around us

Signification - the process of reading signs

Design Technology

Deciduous – a general term used to describe trees that lose their leaves in autumn

Embellishment - a decorative detail or feature added to something to make it more attractive

Formaldehyde – as in the thermosetting plastic – Urea formaldehyde

Gravure – a commercial printing process

Tracheid – the cells of wood

Lignin – the natural resins that hold the cells together in timbers

Lithography – commercial printing process

Mahogany - is a kind of wood

Modifications - are the changes that are made

Piezoelectric – devices that either generate electricity when loaded, or change shape/size with a useful force when connected to an electronic circuit

Phosphorescent – ceramic pigments that have the ability to absorb light and then release the light energy over a long period of time

Photochromic – as with photochromic lenses, are optical lenses that darken on exposure to specific types of light of sufficient intensity, most commonly ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

Sintering – the process used in the manufacture of materials that are difficult to process in any other way

Synthetic - (of a substance) made by chemical synthesis, especially to imitate a natural product

Tessellation - an arrangement of shapes closely fitted together, especially of polygons in a repeated pattern without gaps or overlapping

History Terms

Anarchism - an ideology that argues a society can be run without rules or a government and that the abolition of these things will lead to freedom, equality and justice

Apartheid - a policy of racial segregation, exploitation and oppression developed by white minority South African governments

Autocracy - absolute rule or government by one person

Colonialism - the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically

Communism - theory or system of social organisation promoting shared ownership of property and the means of production by the community as a whole or the state

Decolonisation - the process of colonies being freed from imperial rule through their own initiatives or the granting of self-government

Dominions - the territory of a sovereign or government

Fundamentalism - any religious movement that stresses rigid adherence to literal interpretations of its religious texts

Imperialism - a policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonization, use of military force, or other means

Independence - freedom from being governed or ruled by another country

Indigenous - originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native

Industrialisation - the process of moving towards large-scale mechanised industry, usually accompanied by urbanisation, rather than agriculture, crafts and trading

Mercantilism - belief in the benefits of profitable trading

Modernisation - the process of becoming modern, accepting change and modern values

Presbyterians - of or relating to ecclesiastical government by presbyters

Racism - the belief in the superiority of one race of people over others

Revolution - sudden and radical change in society; a complete overthrow of an established government or political

Suzerainty - a situation in which a powerful region or people controls the foreign policy and international relations of a tributary vassal state while allowing the subservient nation internal autonomy

Art Terms

Anamorphic - distorted or stretched image, from the Greek word for transformation- anamorphosis

Classicism - the principles embodied in the styles, theories, or philosophies of the art of ancient Greece and Rome

Designer - a person who conceives and gives form to objects used in everyday life

Gropius - The school's curriculum aimed to re-establish the bond between artistic creativity and manufacturing that had been broken by the Industrial Revolution

Marquee - Photoshop Toolbox function that allows artist to define and select a rectangular, elliptical, or circular area to be copied

Miniature - a small painting, usually a portrait

Monochrome - one colour, so in relation to art, a monochrome artwork is one that includes only one colour

Picturesque - the word refers to an ideal type of landscape that has an artistic appeal, in that it is beautiful but also with some elements of wildness

Surrealism - a 20th-century avant-garde movement in art and literature which sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind, for example by the irrational juxtaposition of images

Tenebroso - "in the dark manner." Italian word for dark and gloomy. A style of high contrast between light and dark for dramatic effect

Triptych - an artwork in three panels

Zoetrope - a 19th-century optical toy consisting of a cylinder with a series of pictures on the inner surface that, when viewed through slits with the cylinder rotating, give an impression of continuous motion

Modern Foreign Languages Terms

Consonant - a speech sound produced by stopping or changing the flow of air from the lungs (opposed to vowel)

Diphthong - a vowel which is articulated with a change in tongue position between the beginning and end, e.g. /ai/ in English or German. Not all diphthongs have phonological status in a language. Historically, diphthongs tend to develop from long vowels

Onomastics - the linguistic study of names, both personal and place names. This field is particularly concerned with etymology and with the general historical value of the information which names offer the linguist

Phonetics - the study of speech sounds and how they are made, transmitted, and heard by the ear

Pluperfect - perfect with respect to a point of reference in past time, as *had done* in *He had done it when I came*

Preposition - one of a group of words used before nouns and pronouns to form phrases that give more information about a verb, noun, or other phrase, usually expressing a relationship of time, place, or the like

Separable - capable of being separated, parted, or dissociated

Umlaut - a mark used over a vowel, as *ä, ö, ü*, to indicate a vowel sound different from that of the letter without the mark, esp. as used in German

Maths Terms

Chord - a straight line drawn from one point on the edge of a circle to another

Circumference - the perimeter of a circle

Coefficient - the number in front of an algebraic symbol

Congruent - if you can place a shape exactly on top of another then they are said to be

congruent - you may rotate, reflex or translate the shape

Distribution - how data is shared or spread out

Hypotenuse - the longest side on a right angled triangle

Integer - a whole number

Irrational - a decimal which is never ending

Isosceles - a triangle with two equal sides

Obtuse - an angle between 90° and 180°

Parallelogram - a quadrilateral with two pairs of parallel sides

Perimeter - the distance around a two-dimensional shape

Perpendicular - two or more lines which meet at right angles

Rational- a decimal number which ends or is recurring

Reciprocal- the reciprocal of any number is 1 divided by the number

Recurring- a decimal which never ends but repeats all or parts of the sequence of numbers after the decimal point

Transformation- the collective name for reflections, rotations, translations and enlargements

Variable- a letter which we don't know the value of

Biology Terms

Antibodies - proteins made by the B cells that immobilizes antigens

Antigen - the foreign particles or substances that trigger an immune response

Capillary - the smallest blood vessels that connect veins to the arteries and are the site of all exchange with the environment

Catalyst -a molecule that speeds up a chemical reaction by lowering the activation energy

Chloroplast - the cell part responsible for photosynthesis in eukaryotic cells

Cholesterol - the steroid embedded in the cell membrane that keeps the membrane fluid and strong

Chromosomes - the DNA when it is wrapped up tightly around proteins during metaphase

Duodenum -the primary site of chemical digestion in humans

Enzyme- an organic catalyst that lowers the activation energy of chemical reactions in organisms thus increasing the rate of reaction

Homeostasis - the condition of animals where they keep their internal environment constant for a specific characteristic often as a result of negative feedback

Homozygous - the description of an individual who has the same allele for a trait on both homologous chromosomes

Photosynthesis - the chemical reaction that makes glucose and oxygen from water and carbon in the presence of sunlight.

Ribosome - the part of the cell responsible for dehydration synthesis of proteins using the mRNA template

Music Terms

Acciaccatura - a small up-beat grace note

Breve - a note eight beats long

Cello - low string instrument

Chromatic - music in which notes are used from other keys

Crescendo - getting louder

Crotchet - a note having the time value of a quarter of a semibreve or half a minim, represented by a large solid dot with a plain stem

Diminuendo -getting quieter

Fortissimo - very loud

Glockenspiel - a tuned percussion instrument

Harpsichord - a keyboard instrument from the Baroque period
Lyrical - the emotion behind the words of a song
Melismatic - a group of notes or tones sung on one syllable
Oratorio - music set to a biblical text
Orchestra - a group of instrumentalists, comprised of strings, woodwind, brass, and percussion sections
Oscillation - vibrating strings on a musical instrument
Rhythm - a strong, regular repeated pattern of movement or sound
Syllabic - each syllable of a word is sung to a note
Teecitative - a spoken passage in a musical setting
Xylophone - a musical instrument played by striking a row of wooden bars of graduated length with one or more small wooden or plastic beaters

Physics Terms

Acceleration - the rate of change of velocity, acceleration depends on the mass of the object and the force applied
Components - a part of an electrical circuit, for example the bulbs or switch or diode
Conservation - describes the importance of saving or restricting the use of an important resource, such as the non-renewable energy sources
Electrostatics - this is the transfer of electrons to or from insulators, caused by negative or positive charge, electrostatic friction causes common electrostatic phenomena
Emission - something, which is given out
Frequency - the number of waves per second measured in a unit called hertz (HZ). One hertz means one wave in one second. The symbol is 'f'
Galaxy - a vast number of star systems held by gravitational forces
Longitudinal - a type of wave where particles move from side to side for example sound; this movement is parallel to the direction in which the energy moves
Perpendicular - at right angles
Refraction - a property of waves, including light and sound, the refraction of light is the change in direction of the light when it passes from one medium to another

Religious Education Terms

Bereavement - the process of dealing with the loss of a loved one
Conscience - the sense of an inner voice directing our actions
Deterrence - where a punishment is used to prevent others from committing the same crime
Enlightenment - a Buddhist idea which refers to a time of understanding, peace and gaining knowledge
Gurdwara - the Sikh place of worship
Philosophy - the study of wisdom
Purgatory - a Catholic belief which involves a process of spiritual cleansing after death, before entering Heaven with God

Reincarnation - the belief that when you die, your soul lives on in another living thing

Synagogue - the Jewish place of worship

Engineering Terms

Algorithm - a series of defined steps

Ammonia - chemical combination of nitrogen and hydrogen (NH₃). Ammonia is a very efficient refrigerant and identified as R-117

Amorphous - a solid not having a repetitive three-dimensional pattern of atoms

Ampacity - a wire's ability to carry current safely, without undue heating; the term formerly used to describe this characteristic was current capacity of the wire

Amperage - an electron or current flow of one coulomb per second, past a given point in a circuit

Dielectric - an insulating material that separates the plates of a capacitor

Electrolytic - a capacitor that relies on chemical action for its operation

Gantt - a chart that represents a schedule of operations along a time series

Lathe - a machine used to reduce the diameter of material (can be used for drilling)

Ohmmeters - equipment to check electrical resistance

Optoelectronics - is the study and application of electronic devices that source, detect and control light

Oscilloscope - an instrument that provides displays of voltage against time

Schematic - a simplified diagram showing how various component parts are connected together and relate to one another

Sequestrant - a substance that holds a mineral or metal in solution beyond its saturation point

Torque - something that produces or tends to produce torsion or rotation; the moment of a force or system of forces tending to cause rotation

Food Studies and Catering Terms

Accompaniments - items offered separately to main dish e.g. vegetables and sauces

Aeration – The ability of some fats to trap lots of air bubbles when beaten together with sugar

Brulee - burned cream

Caramelisation – The breaking up of sucrose molecules when they are heated, which changes the colour, flavour and texture of the sugar as it turns into caramel

Coulis - sauce made of fruit or vegetable puree

Croutons - cubes of bread fried or grilled

Entrée - a meat dish usually served as a main course

Flambé: to cook with flame by 'burning' away alcohol e.g. crepes Suzette

Garnish - a savoury decoration for food, trimmings served with a main item

Hygiene - conditions or practices conducive to maintaining health and preventing disease, especially through cleanliness

Marinade - a richly spiced liquid used to give flavour to and help tenderise meat and fish

Polysaccharides – Group of carbohydrates that are made from many sugar molecules joined together

Roux - a mixture of fat and flour used as a base for a sauce

Triglyceride - An ester formed from glycerol and three fatty acid groups. Triglycerides are the main constituents of natural fats and oils

Health and Social Care

Achievement - a thing done successfully with effort, skill, or courage development - an event constituting a new stage in a changing situation

Adolescence - the period following the onset of puberty during which a young person develops from a child into an adult

Attachment - affection, fondness, or sympathy for someone or something

Counsellor - a person trained to give guidance on personal or psychological problems

Intellectual - appealing to or engaging the intellect

Loneliness - sadness because one has no friends or company

Physiotherapist - help people affected by injury, illness or disability through movement and exercise, manual therapy, education and advice. They maintain health for people of all ages, helping patients to manage pain and prevent disease

Psychology Terms

Confidentiality - the state of keeping something secret

Endogenous - found or coming from within something, for example a system or person's body or mind

Hypothesis - an idea or explanation for something that is based on known facts but has not yet been proven

Infidelity: an example of not being faithful or loyal

Mnemonic - something such as a very short poem or a special word used to help a person remember something

Qualitative -relating to how good or bad something is

Schizophrenia - a serious mental illness in which someone cannot understand what is real and what is imagery

Separation - a situation in which two or more people or things are parted

Science Terms

Acoustic - relating to sound or the sense of hearing. E.g. "dogs have a much greater acoustic range than humans

Amylase – an enzyme which breaks down starch

Anaerobic - relating to or requiring an absence of free oxygen. E.g. "anaerobic bacteria

Antioxidant – vitamins that help protect the body from developing heart disease and some types of cancer

Becquerel – a unit of radioactivity

Buoyancy - the ability or tendency of something to float in water or other fluid

Carnivorous – feeding on other animals

Denature – a change in shape of a protein

Diaphragm - a dome-shaped muscular partition separating the thorax from the abdomen in mammals. It plays a major role in breathing, as its contraction increases the volume of the thorax and so inflates the lungs

Foetus – an unborn or unhatched offspring of a mammal, in particular an unborn human more than eight weeks after conception

Graphite – a grey crystalline allotropic form of carbon which occurs as a mineral in some rocks and can be made from coke. It is used as a solid lubricant, in pencils and as moderator in nuclear reactors

Inoculation - the action of inoculating or of being inoculated; vaccination, giving protection from an infectious disease

Luminous – giving off light

Monohybrid – a hybrid that is a cross with respect to just one specified gene or characteristic e.g. eye colour

Penicillin - an antibiotic or group of antibiotics produced naturally by certain blue moulds, now usually prepared synthetically

Organelles – tiny structures within a cell with specific functions

Photosynthesis - the process by which green plants and some other organisms use sunlight to synthesize nutrients from carbon dioxide and water

Polysaccharides – group of carbohydrates that are made from many sugar molecules joined together

Radioactive – a substance which gives off ionising radiation

Seismic - relating to earthquakes or other vibrations of the earth and its crust

Spectroscopy – analysis of the light on a spectrum to identify elements

Translucent - (of a substance) allowing light, but not detailed shapes, to pass through; semi-transparent

Urethra - the duct by which urine is conveyed out of the body from the bladder

Vasodilation – the dilation of blood vessels which decrease blood pressure

Drama Terms

Auditorium - The area where the audience sits

Amphitheatre - A fan shaped theatre that looks down onto the performance space

Choral - working as a chorus to deliver speech and movement usually found in Greek Theatre

Cyclorama - The wall at the back of the stage

Expressionism - An extreme emotion dramatized through symbol and metaphor

Motif - A repeated or dominant idea in an artistic work

Naturalism - refers to drama that attempts to recreate 'real life'

Promenade - A performance that moves the audience from one location to another

Proscenium - A proscenium arch is a traditional 'picture frame' end on stage

Proxemics - Refers to the positioning of people on stage taking into consideration their relationships with other characters on stage with them

Symbolism - Against realism, focussed on the use of images

Stanislavski - A practitioner who created the science of drama that he called 'The system'

Tableaux - A series of still images with meaning

Traverse - A stage where the audience sits on either side of the performance space, creating a channel

